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The Mayor, Aldermen, Assistants, Medical Faculty, and other Citizens of Natchez humbly solicit the attention of the Legislature of this Territory to the following Memorial:—

FOR the promptitude and zeal which your Honorable Body has already manifested to effect the establishment of a Hospital in our City, we beg leave to return you the most sincere thanks. At the same time that it proves the interest you take in relieving the distresses of humanity, it precludes, to your memorialists, the necessity of expatiating on the extreme wretchedness and suffering that afflicted paupers in this place have experienced for want of such institution. Your Memorialists, however, deem it their duty to submit the following observations, as tending to save the time and labor that would employ your Honourable Body in legislating on and investigating this subject.

By referring to the resolutions of the Faculty which accompany this Memorial, it will appear that it was hoped your Honourable Body would be pleased to solicit the assistance of the States and Territories bordering on the Mississippi and Ohio, as well as of Congress. The justice and propriety of such a demand, we humbly conceive, cannot be called in question by any one who has ever visited the City of Natchez, where a great number of poor transitory inhabitants of those States are at all times to be found; particularly during the most sickly season.

It will not, no doubt, seem very strange, to those who have not reflected particularly on the subject, that it should be necessary to seek assistance from abroad for the mere purpose of erecting and supporting a Hospital; but it will appear evident when we consider the great cost of building, of provisions, and of every necessary article of expence; and particularly the high rate of service in this country. For these considerations we may add, the exorbitant rate of our public treasury, the smallness of our revenue, and the very great number of objects that require this sort of exaction. And here we beg leave to state it as our humble opinion, that a competent Hospital Establishment in this place must be more expensive than the City of New Orleans itself; For, although the number of resident citizens bears no comparison to that of the city of New Orleans, the number of strangers is not so great, nor the situation and climate so unhealthy, yet the number of sick poor, destitute of every necessary support, is probably not much less. The causes of this, need not be obvious, are not less evident than the fact. It is well known to your Honourable Body, that Boston from above constitutes, so to speak, the main body of the charitable object that ought to be relieved by Hospital Institutions. The very small sum they receive at New Orleans for their services, and the very general exhaustion of their resources, render them almost helpless. Add to this, their inferior position in this place, their having been long exposed to the influence of a hot climate, and the fatigue of a journey on foot. The number of those who can bear during the sickly season, for the mere want of comfortable lodging and common attention, is indeed so great that every one who has resided a summer in Natchez, has had reason to thank with horror at the spectacle. The Common Council attempted, the last year, to avert this evil as far as lay in their power, by appointing overseers of the poor, invested with authority to provide for the sick at the expense of the City Treasury; But notwithstanding the exertions of the overseers

were incessant, and the whole amount of revenue overrun by upwards of five hundred dollars, they had the mortification to find that, for want of a Hospital Institution, the sum of human misery was not much diminished.

Your Honourable Body will have a right to expect from us, who have long contemplated this subject, and especially from those among us who have some acquaintance with Hospital Institutions, an estimate, however vague, of the probable expence it will incur. The idea will naturally present itself, that, as the trade from above is rapidly increasing, as also the growth of the City of Natchez and the population of our Territory, what would now be a competent establishment, must, in the course of a few years, be very inadequate; and consequently, that in a short repetition of demands will be made. But we entertain a sanguine hope that a future increase of expence will be amply supported by means of the donations and services that such charitable and laudable institutions never fail to receive.

In endeavouring to form an estimate of the probable expence, we shall confine ourselves to a statement of what we suppose will be the least and most reasonable competent establishment.

We conceive that a sufficient building cannot cost less than
The bedding, kitchen utensils, and household furniture,
The full supply of medicine and surgical apparatus,

Total amount of immediate expence,	12 000
Wages of an operator,	750
— of a maker,	180
— of two servants,	150
Making—by two dollars per day,	730
Groceries of all kinds,	750
Medicine,	250
Wood and water,	250
Bread, wine, repairs, and all other contingencies,	800

Deduct for the board of a certain description of patients,

Total amount of annual expence,

The disposition your Honourable Body has already discovered to support and countenance the institution, renders us to petition you in a particular manner to make some appropriate provision for its execution.

The subscription papers herewith enclosed, you will perceive, were originally intended to be subscribed to the care and patronage of your Honourable Body. The subscribers have been obtained in haste, and with little exertion. And we should much like to give it as our opinion that a much larger amount may be yet obtained in this way within the Territory and from abroad. We therefore beg leave to suggest the propriety of immediately appointing Trustees, and investing them with such powers as your Honourable Body may conceive most conducive to the interests of the Institution.

With due respect and submission, &c.

December 22, 1824.